

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 L-02 IO-03 INR-11

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9492

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4293

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LIMDIS

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS JULY 22

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PGOV, PINS, PINT

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: DUNGAN AND PLANK

REF: STATE 155648

1. FOLLOWING RESPONDS TO REFTEL REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE RE
DUNGAN AND PLANK TESTIMONY IN KENNEDY HEARING.

2. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO PREDICT CHARACTER OF TESTIMONY
THAT WILL BE GIVEN BY DUNGAN AND PLANK. FREQUENTLY, IN OUR
EXPERIENCE, SELF-STYLED AMERICAN INVESTIGATORS IN CHILE HAVE
COMMENTED TO US IN FAIRLY SYMPATHETIC TERMS, ONLY TO RETURN
TO THE UNITED STATES TO ISSUE HIGHLY CRITICAL STATEMENTS.

3. WHILE DUNGAN AND PLANK WERE HERE WE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT
THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF THE EXISTING SITUATION VARIED SHARPLY.
DUNGAN SEEMED TO US TO BE MORE OPEN-MINDED AND TO LOOK AT THE
SITUATION IN CHILE IN MODERATE TERMS, NOTING SOME DEGREE OF
RECENT IMPROVEMENT. PLANK, ON THE OTHER HAND, TENDED TO BE
HIGHLY EMOTIONAL AND CRITICAL OF CHILEANS. BOTH ARE LIKELY TO
DETAIL THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES IN INTERVIEWING CHILEAN OFFICIALS,
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CONCERNED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND OTHER LAWYERS, AND PRISONERS

OR MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES, AS WELL AS THEIR VISITS TO
DETENTION POINTS, ETC. WE EXPECT BOTH WOULD BE CRITICAL OF
JUNTA'S HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE, PLANK IN GREATER DEGREE THAN
DUNGAN. FURTHER, BOTH OF THEM WILL NO DOUBT CRITICIZE FAILURE
OF USG TO REACT WITH VIGOR TO WHAT THEY REGARD AS ABUSES IN
CHILE (IN THIS CONNECTION SEE SANTIAGO 2342).
POPPER

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